



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, 8th District

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SUPERVISOR JURSIK REQUESTS ACTION FROM STATE ON HOAN BRIDGE *DOT should perform engineering study to include Hoan in next round of stimulus funds*

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik is calling on Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi to complete the promised engineering study of the Hoan Bridge in order to qualify for the next round of federal stimulus funding. Supervisor Jursik placed the Hoan on the original list for stimulus funding, but it was later removed because the project is not considered “shovel-ready.” In order for the Hoan to become eligible, preliminary engineering studies must be completed. At a meeting in September 2009, Busalacchi had promised members of the Coalition to Save the Hoan that he would perform the engineering studies. To date, Governor Doyle and Secretary Busalacchi have refused to accomplish this task.

“Failure to perform the engineering studies makes it impossible to obtain any funding, whether it’s from the stimulus or the next biennial state budget,” Supervisor Jursik said. “The DOT’s failure to plan validates my worst nightmare that the State wants the bridge removed. If this transportation corridor becomes a debacle like the Zoo Interchange, there will be no temporary bridge over the Port of Milwaukee.”

Supervisor Jursik also wrote to U.S. Representative Gwen Moore, calling on her to get involved in the Hoan Bridge replacement by securing Federal Highway Funds for the Hoan. Supervisor Jursik’s letter detailed that, despite unanimous support from the entire County Board, which passed a resolution calling for the engineering studies, the Wisconsin DOT refuses to comply with this resolution or follow proper planning procedures. Planning decisions should instead be directed to the federally recognized agency responsible for regional planning, the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Agency (SEWRPC).

“Any attempts to sidestep this process, as we have seen thus far, underscore my fears that the State secretly wants to remove this bridge and alienate the tens of thousands of commuters and businesses that rely on this transportation lifeline,” Supervisor Jursik added. “The voices of these residents should not be ignored. Instead, I ask the State to embrace this call for help and preserve this corridor for future generations.”

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